

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 SSC-01 SCA-01 PC-01 CU-02 /075 W

----- 052375

R 291700Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2943

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAMAKO 4767

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ML, PFOR

SUBJ: MALI RESTRICTS EMBASSIES ACCESS TO MINISTRY
OF INFORMATION

1. IN A CIRCULAR NOTE, DATED DEC. 24, THE MINISTRY'
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS INFORMED ALL MISSIONS THAT EMBASSY
PRESS ATTACHES MUST HENCEFORTH ADDRESS THEMSELVES
EXCLUSIVELY TO THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ON ALL
MATTERS INVOLVING THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND
TELECOMMUNICATIONS (MOIT).

2. THIS EMBASSY HAS HAD A LONG AND FRUITFUL RELATIONSHIP
WITH THE MOIT AND HAS BEEN ABLE TO WORK DIRECTLY WITH
THE MINISTER AND OTHER OFFICIALS ON A VARIETY OF PRESS,
CULTURAL AND AID PROJECTS.

3. THE DIVISION OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY CHARGED WITH
HANDLING MATTERS BETWEEN THE DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS AND
THE MOIT IS THE DIVISION OF INFORMATION, DOCUMENTATION,
DIPLOMATIC ARCHIVES AND CONFERENCES, HEADED BY
ASSANE GUINDO. HE IS FORMER MALIAN AMBASSADOR TO
PEKING, WHO SERVED 5-6 YEARS THERE IN LATE SIXTIES.

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HE IS OPEN, INTELLIGENT AND EASY TOM TALK TO, BUT WE

KNOW LITTLE OF HIS POLITICAL LEANINGS.

4. COMMENT: IT IS TOO EARLY TO TELL IF THIS IS A MAJOR CHANGE IN WHAT HAS BEEN A RELATIVELY OPEN GOVERNMENT. WE DO NOT YET KNOW HOW THIS WILL WORK IN PRACTICE SINCE GUINDO LAST OCCUPIED A MODEST OFFICE WITH PERHAPS ONE ASSISTANT AND TWO CLERKS. FIRST REACTION OF A SENIOR USIS LOCAL WAS THAT IT WOULD BE EASY TO GET AROUND THE NEW DIRECTIVE, BUT, IN A MORE SERIOUS VEIN, SHE ADDED THAT IF THIS DID NOT WORK, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO GET THINGS DONE BY GOING THROUGH THE SLOW-MOVING FOREIGN MINISTRY.
DAWKINS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TELECOMMUNICATION, INFORMATION CENTERS, REORGANIZATIONS, DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BAMAKO04767
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750449-0057
From: BAMAKO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975129/aaaaahkm.tel
Line Count: 74
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 MAY 2003 by MartinML>; APPROVED <14 NOV 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MALI RESTRICTS EMBASSIES ACCESS TO MINISTRY OF INFORMATION
TAGS: PFOR, ML, (GUINDO, ASSANE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006